

Indians, such as "Chief's First Son," are a favorite subject for Kent "Patch" Peterson.

By Lillie Robertson
Deseret News staff writer

ABOUT THREE miles north of the church in Deweyville you will come to a gravel road on your right. Look up on the hillside and you'll see a green area. That's my place, the only green spot up there," said the voice on the phone.

Photographer Owen Stayner and I soon arrived at "the green spot," where we received a friendly welcome from Kent "Patch" Peterson, a colorful individualist with curly red hair, a mustache, and a patch over one eye (the result of a shop accident). We were soon comfortably seated in the living room of his cool earth-covered home, built into the side of the hill.

Why build a house in the side of a hill?

"Well, I guess because I have a good share of the pioneer spirit of my forefathers in me," he explains. "Also it cost 10 to 20 percent less to build underground. We (he and wife Judi) built the house in 1979. I subcontracted the concrete work, then some friends helped me do the interior work."

The house extends 26 feet back into the hill, is 68 feet long and contains six bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, plus a spacious, beam-ceiling combination living room/kitchen area. The large front window provides good outside light, plus a panoramic view of the peaceful valley below. Around the outside are some 50 fruit and nut trees, grapes for both fresh eating and juice, a raspberry patch, and large vegetable garden. A part of the Petersons' lifestyle is being as self-sufficient as possible. Another trait of his pioneer heritage.

But my visit was to find out about Patch's art work, his woodcarvings and bronzes — not to talk about the house. So how did he get started in these arts?

"Well, after reading the Old Testament, tooling five leather wallets, tying 8-dozen fishing flies, and lacking something better to do, I picked up a piece of stove wood and started whittling."

And that's how he carved his first niche in the art world! A woodcarving niche that has proven profitable enough the past 12 years to support his family. (His 11 children range in age from about 6 months to 21 years.)

Patch had no idea at the time how that firewood

After completing a redwood carving, he applies a couple of coats of satin varnish on the carved part only, to bring out the color of the wood. The rest of the tie is left in the natural weathered state, a soft gray.

What are his favorite subjects?

"Portraits of the Old West — cowboys, miners, trader, trappers, Indians. The people that made this country what it is . . . the liberty they fought for and preserved. My purpose is to try to bring joy and beauty and awareness of the past into the lives of others."

About four years ago, Patch decided to try his hand at bronzes. That, too, has been a very successful venture. "I enjoy both art forms. One is taking off, and one is adding on," he explains.

His works have been shipped all over — from Texas to Wisconsin, from Belgium to West Germany. In fact, not long ago a Northern California cedar products company commissioned him to do a carving of two swans in flight. It was a gift for a West German pencil
See CARVING on S-4



Peterson works on a clay model that will later be cast in bronze.



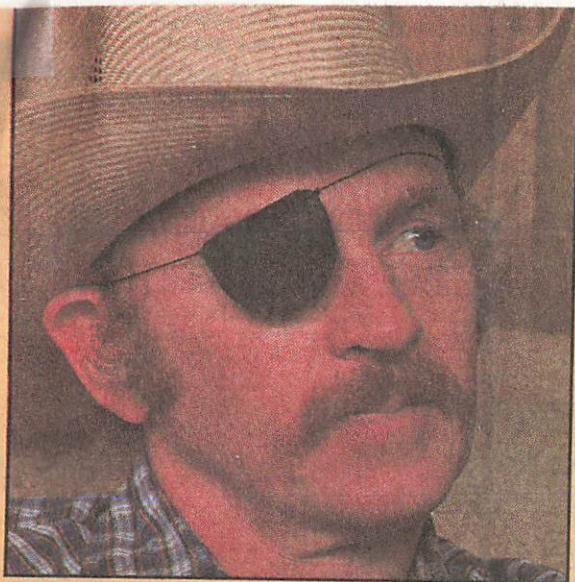
"Spirit of the Olympics" is being carved out of a boxelder burl.



Railroad tie became an Indian.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ OWEN STAYNER
DESIGN/ CHRISTIE JACKSON

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Carving his niche in the art world

One day Kent 'Patch' Peterson
started whittling stove wood
...and the rest is history

Sun 2 Sep 1984



whittling would change his life. As he recalls, he was working for the Forest Service at the time, stationed at a fire lookout not far from McCall, Idaho. He had taken the job fresh out of Weber State College, where he had studied animal husbandry and forestry.

"But we (he and Judi) found it wasn't very lucrative . . . there was a lot of moving around . . . too much bureaucracy and politics involved, which didn't fit my tastes, so I quit. My big mouth would have gotten me in trouble anyway," he says with a grin.

For a while he seemed to drift from one job to another, doing everything from hiring on as a packer and guide with an outfitter company to working for a sawmill, and from selling cars to managing a ranch. But in the fall of 1972 he got smart and went out on his own, doing what he liked to do best, which at the time was woodcarving. A decision he's never regretted.

He carves in redwood, pine, juniper, black walnut ("called the king of woods"), Honduras mahogany, or anything the public wants. "The best wood going is found in the 100-year-old redwood railroad ties," he adds.

The ties, he explains, are from the original transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, where the golden spike was driven. During World War II the rail bed was torn up, the rails went for the war effort and the ties were sold to area farmers for fence posts. Patch



Self-Taught Lehi Artist Uses Wood For Canvas

By DIANE SPEER
Lehi Correspondent

LEHI — One of Lehi's own artists has made a name for himself.

The Sons of Utah Pioneers has commissioned Neldon Bullock to do an 8 foot by 6½ foot marquetry piece depicting the pioneers crossing the plains, Brigham Young, colonization in the west, and the Mormon Battalion, to hang in the main entrance of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. It will take approximately 11 months to complete.

Bullock has done commissioned pieces for Brigham Young University, the Kimball Arts Center in Park City and Billy's Country Emporium in Evanston, Wyo. His portrait of Gov. Scott Matheson and his wife, Norma, received media recognition two years ago.

A self-taught artist, he started making furniture while a student under the direction of Horace Walker at Lehi High School. He also studied under Ed Nolten at Utah Technical College in Provo. He helped with the rebuilding of the Logan Temple and did some of the restoration of the interior woodwork.

Creating one of his portraits is an incredibly detailed undertaking, but Bullock doesn't seem to consider it work. He works in his basement where he has stockpiled 100 different types of wood cut in thin sheets like the veneer for fine furniture.

He gathers wood for his art from throughout the world. One picture may contain several dozen wood types. For example, the seal of Utah contained such types as walnut feather crotch, birch, Andean rosewood, mahogany, French

olive ash, holly and cherry.

"All of my works are made with completely natural wood so that the color you see is the exact color of the wood when it was cut. When I'm finished with all of the inlay work, I just rub the surface with oil and spray the top with a clear finish to protect the wood," Bullock said.

He added, "These portraits will last forever, and the color is permanent. They're just like a piece of furniture, if they're taken care of. They can be passed down through generations."

Although his work is exacting, time-consuming and expensive, Bullock maintains that he much prefers marquetry to the construction trade he was trained for. He's been at it since 1971 but only since 1982 has he been able to go full-time with his "hobby."

Many people thought originally that Bullock had created



Neldon Bullock uses wood to create his art works.

a beautiful new art form but he set the record straight by explaining that marquetry is an ancient art form. It's older

than oil painting but usually done in geometrical designs, and in furniture, not portraits.

Each one he does is a single

edition, because "I couldn't do two portraits in wood and have them come out exactly alike. That's the nature of wood."

Library Backers Push Forward With Approval

By NANCY BRINGHURST
Herald Staff Writer

Book lovers everywhere should be excited about Provo City's plans to build a new library, said Marvin Wiggins, vice-chairman of the city's Library Board.

"Libraries provide entertainment, source materials, relaxation, whatever the community desires," Wiggins said Friday at a membership meeting of the Friends of the Provo Public Library.

Recently, after much deliberation and study, the city council voted to locate the new library on city land just west of the city center. A decision, said Wiggins, that was proper and will benefit the community.

"I appreciate the Mayor, his administration and the council for its hard work," said Wiggins. "The Library Planning Committee's task now is to develop a site

After those needs are gathered, they will be prioritized, a site plan will be developed, a price tag set and bids will be let out, he said.

"The city doesn't have a magic purse," said Wiggins, who reminded the audience a previous study showed residents would probably donate up to \$1.5 million for a new library.

"We think that amount can be raised," he said. "However, citizens can donate more than money, they can donate their time and talent."

A library is the life blood of the community, said Wiggins.

"Much is still in the realm of vision for our new library, but the general direction is there," he said.

The Provo City Library offers more than just books, states a brochure. Among the specialties available are; a childrens story hour, family movies, summer

Payson Accepting Grant Loan Signups

By GRETHE POWELL
Payson Correspondent

PAYSON — The Payson City Council announced it is accepting applications for loans issued from a Community Block Grant the city received earlier this year. The council formed a volunteer loan advisory board when they

were informed they were awarded the grant. Local bankers, business persons and private individuals served on the committee.

The Loan Advisory Board recommended the following general provisions and they were adopted by the city council. They are: 1) the interest rate for loans will be

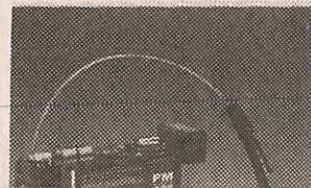
fixed at 8 percent, 2) Terms of the loan will be for a maximum 10 year amortization, with a three year call up, 3) Principles must provide 15 percent to 20 percent equity before being considered for a loan, 4) At least one job should be created for every \$10,000 of funds loaned, and 5) Loan must meet guidelines of the Commu-

nity Development Block Grant.

Also at a recent council meeting, the city council approved grievance procedure for those who wish to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of handicap on the part of the city's employment practices, policies, programs, services and benefits.

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